

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of Louth

For the Year 1938

LOUTH :
BAIRD AND BRODDLE,
PRINTERS,
THE LUDGATE PRESS.

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August, 1939.

Louth,
Lincolnshire.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Louth.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report of the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1938. The health of the Town has been good, no severe epidemic having occurred, and very little infectious disease.

A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres) 2,812.

Estimate of resident population 9,747.

No. of inhabited houses at end of 1938 3,394.

Rateable value £49,946.

Sum represented by penny rate £206.

This town is an agricultural centre, the only local industries being Jam and Pea factories.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population is 9,747.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female
	136	68	68
Legitimate	125	62	63

Illegitimate 11 6 5

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 13.9.

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female
	3	1	2
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 21.5.

DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female
	149	68	81

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.3

Deaths from puerperal causes nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 58.8

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births 51.3

Illegitimate „ „ „ „ „ „ 7.4

Deaths from cancer (all ages) 17

Deaths from measles 3

Deaths from whooping cough nil.

Deaths from diphtheria 1

Deaths from tuberculosis 7

Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years) nil.

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED.

Small-pox nil.

Scarlet Fever 5

Diphtheria 1

Pneumonia 4

Puerperal pyrexia 3

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—Edward Sharpley, M.D. deceased September, 1938. Ralph Morton, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Edin. (acting Medical Officer of Health).

SANITARY INSPECTOR.—M. Dowson, Associate Member, Royal Sanitary Institute, Member of Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

SURVEYOR.—J. C. Barber, A.M.Inst.M. & Cy.E. J. W. Beaumont, M.R.C.V.S. (part time) is inspector under Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 and Milk and Dairies Orders.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The County Council have a laboratory in Lincoln where the following bacteriological specimens can be examined :—Throat swabs for the presence of diphtheria bacilli, sputum specimens for the presence of tubercle bacilli, blood tests for the diagnosis of enteric fever, milk samples, etc. Specimens of venereal disease are sent for examination to the laboratory at Grimsby.

In Louth a supply of diphtheria serum is provided by the Borough and can be obtained through the Medical Officer of Health.

AMBULANCE SERVICE. A motor ambulance is provided by the British Red Cross Society.

For infectious cases an ambulance is provided from the Scartho Isolation Hospital.

An ambulance is also kept at the County Infirmary for conveying patients to that hospital.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. There is a clinic in Queen Street which is under the County Council Medical Officers. This clinic undertakes the diagnosis and supervision of tubercular cases, ante-natal cases, child welfare and orthopædics. Nurses are in attendance at this clinic.

LOUTH AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY. This hospital is supported by voluntary contributions. The hospital contains 57 beds. There is a Maternity ward for town and country patients, children's department, X-ray department, electrical and massage department. In addition to wards there are several private rooms. The Honorary Medical and Surgical Staff consists of local practitioners. There is also a consulting surgical and medical staff, and two honorary ophthalmic surgeons.

COUNTY INFIRMARY, LOUTH. This new hospital built on the site of the old infirmary was opened on July 26th, 1938. The hospital is under the charge of the Lindsey County Council, and contains 200 beds. It is a well equipped hospital and undertakes all types of medical and surgical work, also maternity cases. The medical staff consists of a Medical Superintendent, a Resident Medical Officer and a consulting visiting staff. This hospital is also a training school for nurses.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL. This hospital is provided by the Lindsey County Council and is under the care of their Tuberculosis Medical Officer.

NURSING IN THE HOME. There is no district nurse in Louth. A nurse is supplied by the County Council who visits cases of ophthalmia, measles, whooping cough, etc., reported from the schools. There are two certified mid-wives who attend maternity cases in patients' houses.

A NURSERY SCHOOL is carried on for children under five years of age. It is supported by a grant from the Lindsey County Council and by voluntary contributions.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. Following adverse reports by the Borough Analyst on the Welton water supplying the town, a bore was sunk at the Pumping Station. At a depth of 200 feet water was found. This bore is delivering approximately 840,000 gallons per 24 hours. Seven samples of this water have been analysed and examined bacteriologically by the Borough Analyst who has reported favourably on each one. This water has now replaced the Welton water for the public supply.

Wells—New sunk	...	...	...	...	1
„ Cleansed, repaired	...	...	...	...	nil.
„ Closed as polluted	...	...	...	...	1

Public Supply.

Percentage of houses supplied	...	about	98½%
New cisterns provided	...	...	nil.
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...	nil.

Number of samples obtained for analysis.				
(a) from wells	...	...	...	2
(b) from public supply	...	...	...	17

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of houses with privy vaults in district	...	59
No. of houses with pail closets in district	...	33
No. of pail closets substituted for privy vaults		nil.
No. of pail closets repaired	... ..	nil.
No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles	... ..	6
No. of houses with W.C.s in district	(approx)	3302
No. of W.C.s repaired	... ..	11

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New lengths of sewer laid, Jubilee Crescent	278 yds.
Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc.	... .. 3
Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	... .. 121
„ unstopped, repaired, etc.	... .. 32
Waste pipes, rainwater pipes, etc., repaired, etc.	11
New soil pipes or vent shafts fixed	... .. 81
Existing soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired	1
Drains reconstructed	... .. 8

SCAVENGING.

Refuse is collected weekly by public scavenger. Disposal has been chiefly by incineration, but controlled tipping was adopted for 15 weeks during alterations to the Refuse Destructor.

No. of covered ash-pits	... ..	4
„ uncovered ash-pits	... ..	nil.
„ bins substituted for ash-pits	... ..	nil.
„ houses using bins	... ..	practically all
„ complains of non-removal	... ..	2

NUISANCES.

Total Number of Nuisances during year :

1. Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	195
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2. Reported to Council—

Statutory Notice issued	11
„ „ not issued	nil.

DETAILS OF NUISANCES ABATED.

	After informal intimation	After Statutory Notice
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil
Smoke	1	Nil
Accumulation of refuse...	12	Nil
Foul ditches, ponds, etc....	7	Nil
Dampness	5	1
Yards repaved or repaired	11	1
Other nuisances	159	9

SWIMMING-BATHS.

There is a Public Swimming-bath, which is privately owned, but is under the supervision of the Sanitary Authority.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No. of shops inspected	45
Additional heating or ventilation	nil.
Additional sanitary conveniences	1

SCHOOLS.

These are under the control of the Lindsey County Council who have their own Medical Officers and Inspectors.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No. of premises in district	7
No. of inspections	31
Contraventions of bye-laws	nil.
Contraventions remedied	nil.

• ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

No cases of infestation with bed-bugs have been detected during the year. The method which has been employed previously to free infested houses, has been repeated fumigation with sulphur candles and the use of a contact insecticide.

Where persons are removed into Council houses, the house and its contents are carefully examined before the transfer takes place and if there are any indications of infestation the house and furniture, etc., would be treated in the above mentioned manner. The work would be carried out by employees of the Council.

D. HOUSING.

TOTAL NO. OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE

YEAR	87
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(I.) By the Local Authority	nil.
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(II.) By other Local Authorities	2
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(III.) By other bodies or persons	85
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1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	353
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(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	599
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(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	90
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(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	172
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
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(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	83
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2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	73
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	12
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(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) by owners	... ..	10
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
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(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) by owners	... ..	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made		3
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(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	nil.
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(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings	6
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(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil.
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(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil.
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4. HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (I.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	8
(II.) Number of families dwelling therein				8
(III.) Number of persons dwelling therein				51
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	2
(c) (I.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...		8
(II.) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	46
(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	...	...	...	nil.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES :

No. registered under by-laws	...	...	...	1
†No. of inspections made	...	...	...	3
No. of contraventions of by-laws	...	...		nil.
No. of contraventions remedied	...	...		nil.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS, &C. :

No. removed from district	...	...	...	2
No. inspected during year	...	...	...	2
No. of nuisances therefrom abated	...	...		nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD :
BAKEHOUSES :

No. in district	...	...	...	...	20
No. of underground bakehouses	...	...			nil.
†No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	55
Contraventions of Factory Acts	...	...	...		5
Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	5

Report of Mr. J. W. Beaumont, Veterinary Surgeon,
the Meat Inspector and Inspector under the
Milk and Dairies Orders.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES :

No. on register	...	...	...	...	14
†No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	Daily
Contraventions of by-laws	...	...	...	...	—
Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	—

COWSHEDS :

No. on register	...	...	...	...	48
†No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	Quarterly
Contraventions of regulations	...	...	...	...	—
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	—
No. of milch cows in district	...	...	...	...	300

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS :

No. on register	...	...	...	...	14
†No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	Quarterly
Contraventions of regulations	...	...	...	...	—
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	—
Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	...	...	...	...	—

UNSOUND FOOD.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	1,000	300	100	3,000	3,100
Number inspected	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%

All diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcases condemned — — — 6 2

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... 6 — — — 10

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis Not known Not known Not known Not known

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcases condemned 4 6 1 — 10

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... 7 8 1 — 6

Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis Un-known Un-known Un-known Un-known Un-known

FACTORY INSPECTION.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of Inspec- Written Occupiers tions. Notices. prosecuted.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<i>Factories</i> with mechanical power ...	42	—	nil
<i>Factories</i> without mechanical power	87	5	nil
† <i>Other Premises</i> under the Act (in- cluding works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	nil	—	nil
<i>Total</i> ...	129	5	nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects		Number of defects in respect of	
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	which Prosecutions were Instituted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	5	5	nil	nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	nil	nil	nil	nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	„	„	„	„
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	„	„	„	„
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	„	„	„	„
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
insufficient	„	„	—	„
unsuitable or defective	„	„	—	„
not separate for sexes	„	„	—	„
Other offences	„	„	„	„

(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)

Total	5	5	nil	nil
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In conclusion, I beg to thank the Council and the various Officials for their kind assistance during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

RALPH MORTON, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. Edin.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

